

Amendment No. 1 to SJR0723

**Southerland
Signature of Sponsor**

AMEND Senate Joint Resolution No. 723*

by deleting all language after the caption and substituting the following:

WHEREAS, according to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, there are four species of Asian carp in the United States and in Tennessee, including bighead carp, silver carp, black carp, and grass carp. Imported into the Mississippi Delta, the Asian carp have migrated into the Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee rivers using dam locks and spillways; and

WHEREAS, the bighead and silver carp compete with native fish species for food by consuming microscopic algae and zooplankton. Black carp may eat many species of snails and mussels that are native to Tennessee. Grass carp eat vegetation that provides cover for sportfish such as largemouth bass, crappie, and bluegill; and

WHEREAS, by out-competing native fish for limited resources, Asian carp have the ability to reduce growth rates of native fish or displace them almost completely; and

WHEREAS, in addition to threatening the continued viability of native fish, snail, and mussel populations, the silver carp poses a danger to boaters, fishers, water-skiers, and other persons who use the waters of Tennessee for recreational purposes. The silver carp is known to jump when disturbed by boats. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a collision between boaters and jumping silver carp has the potential to cause human fatalities; and

WHEREAS, Asian carp are a national problem and control of carp is a national effort. Tennessee representatives actively serve on the Ohio River Asian Carp Task Force, where they work collaboratively with other state representatives, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Ohio Basin to make the best use of the limited federal dollars that are available for carp control in our basin. Tennessee

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is also an active participant in the Mississippi River Interstate Cooperative Resource Association, an organization of twenty-eight states and federal agencies that are working together to lobby for additional carp management funds; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency preserves, conserves, manages, protects, and enhances the fish of Tennessee and their habitats for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the citizens of Tennessee and its visitors; and

WHEREAS, in November 2019, the U.S. Senate included in its "minibus" appropriations package funding sought by Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander to help prevent the spread of Asian carp into the Mississippi River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the continued support of the federal government and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is vital to successfully controlling the Asian carp; and

WHEREAS, Asian carp have invaded Kentucky Lake, adversely affecting the fishing and recreational industries; and

WHEREAS, barriers are the most effective means to control the spread of carp into the Tennessee river system; and

WHEREAS, left unchecked, Asian carp will destroy the fishing and recreation industry, as well as negatively affect lakefront property values; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby urge the President of the United States, Congress, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to continue their collaborative efforts, and take immediate, proactive steps to implement barriers that will prevent the spread of Asian carp.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request the United States Congress to continue to appropriate sums sufficient to support the efforts of all agencies in their struggle to contain invasive Asian carp in the Mississippi River and all sub-basins, including the Tennessee River.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a barrier at the lock for Nickajack Dam or Chickamauga Dam is critical to any program for eradicating Asian carp.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request that the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency determine a barrier location at Nickajack Dam or Chickamauga Dam.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all agencies involved in research and combatting the spread of Asian carp are to send an annual report detailing their discoveries and progress to the Chair of the Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and the Chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of the House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Tennessee Congressional Delegation, the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the members of the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Valley Authority, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the members of the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the Executive Director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.